

**199—43.5(476) Broadband initiative plan requirements.** A carrier's proposed plan shall include individual projects spanning 36 consecutive months from the date the plan is filed and shall include a plan for extending advanced services to all customers in the areas where the services are proposed to be deployed (if that will require more than 36 months) to the extent consistent with technological limitations and the public interest. Each project description shall include the means by which the carrier proposes to provide advanced telecommunications services to customers that currently cannot be offered such services as well as an estimate of the number of potential customers that may benefit as a result of the project. The plan shall also include a description of how the public interest will be met by the plan and a description of the geographic locations where the improvements are proposed. The plan shall include a ranking of projects, or group of projects, depicting the order and areas in which a carrier proposes to deploy advanced telecommunications services.

**43.5(1) *Description of each proposed project.*** The description of each proposed project shall include but not be limited to:

- a. The name of the proposed project;
- b. The exchange(s) or area(s), the total number of access lines in the exchange(s) or area(s), and the number of unserved access lines that the project targets;
- c. The proposed improvements and related costs for the project;
- d. The calculation of the total investment divided by the number of additional access lines to be served;
- e. The anticipated date(s) for the deployment of advanced telecommunications services to the exchanges specified in the project; and
- f. A narrative description of the company's reasons for proposing each particular project at the proposed priority level.

**43.5(2) *Plan and project budget categories.*** The plan and project budgets shall be itemized by proposed costs. Each category shall contain sufficient information to allow the board to perform an adequate analysis of the plan. The plan and project budgets shall be categorized as follows for each proposed project:

- a. Planning and design costs;
- b. Equipment costs;
- c. Costs for the installation of the equipment; and
- d. Other project and plan costs.

**43.5(3) *Board review of proposed projects.*** In reviewing the proposed projects, the board shall consider all relevant factors, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Cost efficiency of deployment, which is the calculation of the total investment divided by the number of additional access lines to be served.
- b. The extent to which the carrier's proposed investments and expenditures serve the public interest, including the upgrading of existing telecommunications infrastructure to permit improved data services for customers that cannot be offered advanced telecommunications services due to their geographic locations.
- c. The availability of funding sources other than the funds received pursuant to Iowa Code section 476.97 as amended by 2003 Iowa Acts, chapter 126, section 6, as well as external funding sources and committed investments by entities other than the carrier.

The board may approve, reject, or modify the plan. For example, the board may reorganize the project priority list or deny approval of specific projects that fail to meet the public interest test. A carrier may withdraw its plan if the carrier disagrees with the board's proposed modifications and shall refund all unspent revenues to existing customers in a manner to be approved by the board and at a rate of interest to be determined by the board, but not to exceed the interest rate allowed in Iowa Code section 476.6(13).